

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for shortening a certificate chain to form a collapsed certificate. The certificate chain comprises a plurality of linked certificates issued by a corresponding plurality of entities. The certificate chain extends from a first entity, through at least one intermediate entity, to a target entity associated with certain predetermined information. The plurality of linked certificates in the certificate chain is converted by the first entity into a collapsed certificate that is signed by the first entity and includes the predetermined information and an identification of the at least one intermediate entity. By utilizing the collapsed certificate in place of the plurality of linked certificates in the certificate chain, bandwidth utilization within a network and certificate processing overhead are reduced.

243201